

Remarks

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding Office Action mailed December 23, 2004. No amendments are made and claims 14-19, 30-44, and 58-65 remain pending. Consideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

All claims are rejected on the ground of impermissible double patenting. Applicant respectfully suggests that that double patenting rejection is improper and requests its withdrawal. The present patent application is a divisional of parent application Ser. No. 10/098,040 filed March 14, 2002 in which Applicant withdrew and cancelled non-elected claims in response to a restriction requirement. The application issued as US Pat. No. 6,744,262 on June 1, 2004. The present divisional patent application was filed February 17, 2004 and before issuance of the parent patent. Only the claims not elected for prosecution in the parent application are presented for examination.

According to MPEP §804.01, "The third sentence of 35

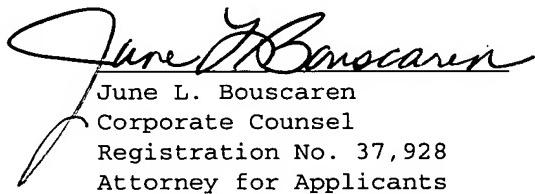
USC §121 prohibits the use of a patent issuing on an application with respect to which a requirement for restriction has been made ... as a reference against any divisional application if the divisional application is filed before issuance of the patent."

Accordingly withdrawal of the double patenting rejection is respectfully requested and substantive examination of the pending claims is solicited.

If any clarifications can be made by way of telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the Undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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